Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A method for identifying **one or more indolinones** ~~**compounds**~~ potentially useful to treat or to prevent a disease or disorder, wherein said disease or disorder is characterized by an inflammatory response involving an abnormality in a signal transduction pathway that includes an interaction between a PYK2 polypeptide and a natural binding partner, comprising

a. measuring the level of interaction between a PYK2 polypeptide and a natural binding partner;

b. comparing said level to the normal interaction level; and

c. identifying ~~**assaying one or more compounds**~~ **indolinones that are** ~~**for those**~~ able to modulate **an interaction between a PYK2 polypeptide and a natural binding partner** ~~**said interaction as a means to identify said potentially useful compounds**~~.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said disease or disorder characterized by an inflammatory response is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel diseases and connective tissue disease.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more ~~**compounds**~~ **indolinones** modulate said interaction *in vitro*.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more ~~**compounds**~~ **indolinones** modulate said interaction *in vivo*.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said interaction is selected from the group consisting of PYK2 phosphorylation, PYK2 natural binding partner phosphorylation, PYK2 de-phosphorylation, PYK2 natural binding partner de-phosphorylation, and complex formation between PYK2 and a natural binding partner.

8. (Amended) A method for diagnosis of a ~~**disease or disorder**~~ **connective tissue disease, ulcerative colitis, or Crohn's disease,** ~~**wherein said disease or disorder is characterized by an inflammatory response involving an abnormality in a signal transduction pathway that includes an interaction between a PYK2 polypeptide and a natural binding partner**~~, comprising

a. measuring the level of interaction between a PYK2 polypeptide and a natural binding partner;

b. comparing said level to the normal interaction level; and

c. detecting a change in said interaction as an indication of **a connective tissue disease, ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease**.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The method of claim ~~9~~ 8, wherein said connective tissue diseases are selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, progressive systemic sclerosis, mixed connective tissue disease, and Sjögren's syndrome.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said interaction is selected from the group consisting of PYK2 phosphorylation, PYK2 natural binding partner phosphorylation, PYK2 de-phosphorylation, PYK2 natural binding partner de-phosphorylation, and complex formation between PYK2 and a natural binding partner.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said change is an increase ~~**or decrease**~~ in said interaction.

Claims 14 – 25 (Canceled).

26. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said change is a decrease in said interaction.